

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 6.70.1058 PCT/IB	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See Form PCT/PEA/416	
International application No. PCT/IB2004/003476	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.10.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 24.10.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B67D1/04		
Applicant INBEV S.A..et al.		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau)</i> a total of sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only)</i> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20.05.2005	Date of completion of this report 26.09.2005
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Desittere, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399-



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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements* of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

Description, Pages

1-5 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

A document reflecting the prior art described on page 1, §1, is not identified in the description (Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT).

Re Item V

Closest prior art: document US-A-4 850 387 discloses a beverage dispensing appliance with a beverage container, a tap adapter having a coupling consisting of a first and second mutually engaging connectors for charging the container with gas from a pressurised gas source, from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the tap adapter does neither comprise a gas connecting locating member, nor a locking member moveable in a guideway engaging the gas connecting locating member and locking it.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Problem: how to provide a beverage dispensing appliance wherein the container is easily connectable to the gas source while being housed into the appliance.

Solution: the coupling comprises a guideway and a locking member such that the actuation of the locking member slides the first connector, which is linked to the container, through a guideway into a locked sealing relation with the mating second connector, which is linked to the gas source.

Inventive step: the solution is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the available documents. US-A-2 191 579 discloses a connector which can be slid through a guideway against a mating second connector. The two connectors are then locked together by

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means of a locking member.

However, the locking member does not perform the step of guiding the connector through the guideway and is therefore not suitable for solving the aforementioned technical problem. A combination of US-A-4 850 387 and US-A-2 191 579 would give a device which differs from the subject-matter of claim 1 in a substantial, non-obvious way.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is therefore considered as involving an inventive step-(Article 33(3) PCT).

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1 and therefore also benefit from its novelty and inventive step.

Industrial applicability: the subject matter of claims 1-9 is applicable in the industry of beverage dispensers.